The Proceedings at the SESSIONS FOR London & Middlesex,

Holden at the *OLD BAILEY:*
Beginning on Wednesday the Sixteenth of *July*, 1679.

Being the Condemnation of the notorious COYNERS,
And many other too common Malefactors.

WITH

The Number of the persons Condemned to Die, and their respective Facts.
As also of those that were Burnt in the Hand, or otherwise to be Punished.

And likewise the Tryals of

Sir *GEORGE WAKEMAN*,
Mr. *Corker*, Provincial of the Benedictine Monks,
Mr. *Rumly*, and Mr. *Marshal.*

THe most considerable Tryal this Wednesday fore-noon, was of a Woman for Murthering her Bastard Child; a Crime in it self so horrid and unnatural, as one would think no person, especially of that Sex, which is counted the most tender-hearted and merciful, could be guilty of such an inhumane Impiety, and yet there is nothing more frequent; notwithstanding the daily examples of punishment by death inflicted upon them; for I do not remember any Sessions for these half dozen years last past, wherein there hath not been, at least one, if not more Tryed for this Bloody Crime. The present Prisoner was Servant to a Gentlewoman of good worth, and had behaved her self with that diligence and modesty, that she had gained much upon the Affections and good opinion of the Family, so that they had no mistrust of her; though when she had been privately Delivered, and disposed of her Child, she was taken notice of to be ill, and some Feminine symptomes appeared. But the same at last increasing, a Midwife was sent for; who examining and enquiring into Circumstances, concluded her to have been delivered of a Child, and charging her with it, she ingeniously confest it, and that it was in a void Garret, near the room she lay in, where they found it buried under certain Tiles and Rubbish. She then and now alleadged that it was still born; but confessing that she was never Married,

and the Statute making it Death for a Woman to be delivered of a Baſtard-Child, without witneſs or diſcovering it; and the Midwife, though ſhe could not poſitively affirm that ſhe had gone her full time, yet acknowledging the Infant had both Hair and Nails, ſhe was Convicted, and received Sentence of death.

A perſon that had been an old Offender, though but a young man, was Tryed on two Indictments, for ſtealing of ſeveral Watches, both pickt out of the Proſecutors Pockets; and to aggravate his Crime, one of them was ſtoln in the *Savoy* Church: being taken upon ſuſpition, and his Lodgings ſearcht, there were found a great number of Watches, about eighteen, and amongſt them theſe two, which were now owned: though the Witneſſes could not directly Swear he was the man that robb'd them, yet being taken from their perſons, and found in his cuſtody, who was not able to give any good account how he came by them, but onely a frivolous allegation, that he bought one of them of a fellow that appeared to be hang'd laſt Seſſions, and the other of he knew not whom; he was found guilty on both Indictments.

A very little Girl was Arraigned for ſtealing a Money-Box, and therein three pound and odd money, out of a Chandlers ſhop, whilſt they were at Dinner: ſhe had often frequented the place for Alms, and the good man had ſeveral times relieved her; and once before ſhe had taken away a Box and Farthings, as ſince ſhe confeſt, though then not ſuſpected; but now they very quickly miſſing their Money, purſued, found her out not far off, and charging her very ſharply, made her confeſs the Theft, and acquaint them that ſhe had thrown the Box over a wall, and hid the money in a piece of Leather under a ſtone by a Pump, where they found it: but ſhe being a Child, and, as ſhe ſaid, not above eight years old, and, by her allegations, there being ſome reaſon to ſuſpect that ſhe did it by the wicked inſtigation of her Parents, in pitty to her tender age, as not having any Felonious intent, ſhe was favoured ſo far, as not to be found guilty of the Indictment.

So likewiſe two Boys, that by ſtealing a Gentlemans key from a Bedmaker with whom they went to School, got into his Chamber in an Inn of Chancery, and breaking his ſtudy, ſtole thence ſix pound and odd money, and two Rings, and ſo run two or three miles out of Town, where after ſome time they were taken, and one of the Rings, and forty ſhillings of the Money, the reſt thereof being ſpent, and one Ring as they ſaid loſt: It appearing that onely one of them did the Fact, though the other had ſhare in ſpending the Money, the firſt was found guilty, and the other acquitted. It being a moſt ſad object, to ſee Children ſo young, ſo vitiouſly inclined, as to attempt ſuch wickedneſs.

A bold Girl was accuſed for breaking open a Trunk, and ſtealing a dozen of Napkins in the Houſe of one that was remotely related to her; but the Jury did not think the Evidence plain enough to Convict her. So likewiſe they acquitted two Shop-lifts, charged with ſtealing of forty yards of Bone-lace; for though there were violent preſumptions of their guilt, there was no direct proof.

In the afternoon a Carman took a Trial for killing a Boy in *Newgate-ſtreet*; driving his Cart along very moderately, and meeting with ſome Gentle-

Gentlemens Coaches, he going to give way, the Child being on the other ſide, unſeen by him, hapned to be beat down, and run over by the farther wheel: All which Circumſtances being proved by perſons of credit that ſaw the Action, and declared that they verily believed it was purely an involuntary Accident, and not by any default of the Priſoner, he was cleared.

Next was a Young man, by Trade an Inſtrument-maker, Tryed for firing of *New-Priſon*, lately burnt down: To which Priſon he had been Committed for a Recuſant, but got out upon Bayl. There was a Witneſs which occaſioned the Suſpicion, that teſtified, That the day before the fire, the Priſoner ask'd him if he had a minde to earn 50 *s.* To which he conſenting, if in an honeſt way, the Priſoner refuſed to tell him for what ſervice, unleſs he would promiſe him abſolutely to do it, and ſo they parted; but firſt the Priſoner told him, If he would earn it, he ſhould ſee fine ſport in *New-priſon* before the next day 7 a Clock; before which time the ſaid Priſon was burnt. There were ſome other Witneſſes, but not direct to the purpoſe; and the Priſoner proving, that the ſame Night he was out of Town; upon a full diſquiſition of the whole matter, he was found not Guilty.

After this was a notable Tryal of two perſons for Coyning; they were by trade Watch-makers, and one of them lately dwelt in the *Old-Bayly*; but together with another of their Gang not yet taken, they had hired Rooms at a Houſe by *Bun-hill-fields*, where they drove their miſchievous Trade. Having paid their Landlady ſome of their counterfeit Money, ſhe ſent out a Boy with a new-mill'd Half-crown, to buy ſome Nutmegs. The Grocer's Apprentice by the lightneſs ſuſpected it to be naught, and took advice on it, who concurr'd in the ſame opinion; and ſeeing it ſo very freſh and newly done, cut it, and found it to be Braſs, but exquiſitely plated over, allowing not above three pennyworth of Silver to a piece. Hereupon they took the name of the perſon from whom the Boy ſaid he came, and gave notice: But the Artiſts underſtanding there was ſome noiſe abroad of it, fled with the greateſt part of their Tools, before the Houſe came to be ſearcht. However, notice being given in the Gazette, one was ſoon after taken in *Briſtol*, and the other in *London*. Their Landlord and Landlady both ſwore they had ſeen them at work, and ſeveral of their Mill'd-pieces were produced in Court, moſt artificially contrived, having their Mills to do it exactly. They made ſome ſlight defence; but upon ſuch plain Evidence of the Fact, were found Guilty of the Treaſon.

A Young man was likewiſe Convicted for ſtealing a Nag out of the Grounds near *Nottingham*, and coming riding up towards *London*, in *Middleſex* his Horſe wanted ſhoeing; where the Smith obſerving that he came a different Way from the Road which he pretended, and other circumſtances, miſtruſted that he had ſtoln the Gelding; and queſtioning him, he at firſt endeavoured to make an eſcape; but being taken, confeſs'd that he took him up near the place aforeſaid; Whither notice being ſent, the Owners Son came now and gave Evidence againſt him, on which he was found guilty.

One *French*, Indicted for breaking open an House in the day time, and ſtealing ſome Linnen; refuſing to plead, was put in the Preſs, the weight whereof in little time, made him willing to ſubmit to his Tryal, being ſcarce able to go or ſtand when he came out; but on Tryal, though found guilty, he obtained the favour of Tranſportation. A poor Popiſh Tailor was charged with being a Prieſt, but no Evidence coming againſt him, he was acquitted. *Clark*, the Boy for firing the Houſe in the *Minories*, after various and contrary Tales, being now again brought to the Bar, was ordered to ſtand in the Pillory, with an Inſcription to this purpoſe, — **I am the Rogue that would have Fired my Miſtreſſes Houſe and all the City.** There were of Common Offenders, Nine in all Condemned, whereof two for Treaſon, for Coyning of Money, Nine burnt in the Hand, Five to be Tranſported, and Six whipt. But ordinary Criminals are now ſcarce worth the notice of any but the Hangman, when we have ſo many Rogues of Note, and Villanies of Quality——

On Friday came on Sir *George Wakeman*, Mr. *Corker*, Provincial of the *Benedictine* Monks, Mr. *Rumley*, and Mr. *Marſhal*. They were all Arraigned in one Indictment, *For Conſpiring the Death of the* KING, *&c.* The Evidence againſt them ſeem'd to be ſomewhat plain, That Sir *George* was to have Fifteen Thouſand pounds for the Poyſoning the KING. Againſt the others, there were other things proved: but as to Circumſtances, I muſt refer to the Conſciences of thoſe concerned, the Priſoners were Acquitted.

Fiat Juſtitia ruat Mundus.

FINIS.